

Appl. No. 09/872,702
Supplemental Amendment dated July 22, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of April 11, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have previously submitted an Amendment and Response to a final Office Action dated April 11, 2003.

The Examiner indicated that the allowable claims are 1-9, 13, 30, 35-45, and 49-50. Applicants hereby cancel claims 10, 12, 22, 46, and 48 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

The Examiner objected to claim 31 and 51 as being in improper dependent form. Applicants have amended claim 31 and claim 51 to be independent claims. Applicants submit these amendments are supported throughout the specification and do not raise any issues of new matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of the claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on June 18, 2002. The Examiner acknowledged receipt but did not completely initial that all of the reference were considered (copy attached). The Examiner did not initial the Muto et al. reference. Applicants provide herein another copy of the IDS for the Examiner to review and consider. Applicants request return of the completely initialed 1449 form.

Summary

Applicants submit the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative if prosecution may be assisted.

Respectfully submitted,

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